

6 MAY 1949

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GENERAL

NO. 628

1. USSR reportedly planning action against Iran--US Ambassador Wiley transmits information, which is unconfirmed but from a good source, that the USSR plans an "important action" against Iran on 10 May. According to Wiley's information, Soviet intentions "exceed a mere frontier incident but are short of a warlike move." Wiley's informant mentioned the possibility of a movement affecting the Kurds.

S-TS

(CIA Comment: CIA does not believe that the USSR contemplates a military invasion of Iran at this time. The USSR, however, may plan to stir up trouble not only among the Kurds in Iran but also among those in northern Iraq and Syria. The Kremlin may also plan to use members of the former autonomous government of Iranian Azerbaijan to create disturbances. Iran would be able to cope with such disorders, unless the insurgents are provided with strong overt support from the USSR.)

2. Israeli intransigence at Lausanne--According to US representative Ethridge, the Israeli delegation's statement on the Arab refugees before the Palestine Conciliation Commission at Lausanne indicates that the Israelis are as intransigent as ever. Ethridge considers Israel's failure to appreciate the importance of a conciliatory approach toward outstanding problems as "particularly disheartening" in view of the increasing disposition of the Arabs "to come to grips with the situation."

C/A-S

## FAR EAST

3. CHINA: British plan to defend Hong Kong--The US Naval Attache in London reports that the British Joint Chiefs of Staff have just decided on an all-out defense of Hong Kong in the event of a Chinese Communist attack. The British Joint Chiefs estimate that such an attack is "very probable."

NAVY-TS

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that the Chinese Communists are not militarily capable of a successful assault on Hong Kong in the near future.)

- 1 Document No. 031

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4. KOREA: Republican troops desert to Northern Korea--  
According to US Army Forces in Korea, 8 officers and 519 men of the South Korean Army crossed the border to North Korea on 5 May with substantial quantities of arms, ammunition, and equipment.

ARMY 65

(CIA Comment: In addition to demonstrating that the efforts of Korean officials to screen Communist sympathizers from the security forces have been less effective than generally believed, this disaffection will undermine the confidence of the South Korean Government in the ability of its security forces to resist Communist pressure from North Korea. The Government may therefore request that the scheduled US troop withdrawal be delayed indefinitely.)

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